

## ***THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO REAUTHORIZE THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA)***



The 1999 reauthorization of the CZMA provides a unique opportunity to provide a vision and a framework for coastal and ocean resources management in the next century. The Administration's proposed changes will improve the capability of the Federal Government, states and local governments to meet coastal management challenges. The major enhancements are outlined below.

***Strengthen the CZMA's Habitat Focus.*** More emphasis is placed on habitat protection (including Essential Fish Habitat, Coral Reefs, etc.) in the findings and declarations of policy.

- Section 306(d)(16) is amended to clarify that the role of state Coastal Management Program (CMP) agencies in implementing their coastal nonpoint pollution control program (CNP) focuses on the prevention and reduction of impacts from polluted runoff on coastal habitats, coastal waters, coastal economies and human health in the coastal zone and that such responsibilities are derived from existing CMP organizational structures and their traditional management roles. Funds previously appropriated for CNP activities are now incorporated into § 306 and § 306(c) is amended so that 10-20 percent of a state's § 306/306A award is used for polluted runoff issues.
- Section 309 is amended to include habitat as an eligible enhancement area. This would include development of, enhancements to, and satisfying the conditions of, a state's CNP.

***Support Coastal Communities.*** To implement a part of the President's Lands Legacy Initiative, a new program is proposed to support local and tribal community-based environmentally protective solutions to the impacts and pressures on coastal uses and resources caused by increased development and sprawl, that will revitalize previously developed areas, discourage development in undeveloped and environmentally sensitive areas, and emphasize water dependent uses.

- The findings of the CZMA are amended to provide for the support of coastal communities.
- Section 309 includes coastal communities as an eligible enhancement area (for state efforts).
- Section 310 is amended to provide funds, through state CMPs, to support coastal communities for technical assistance, information, planning and project implementation.

***Supporting National Coastal Management Objectives.*** A new § 310A (derived in large part from the existing § 310) provides the authorization to adequately address the demand for NOAA technical assistance, management-oriented research, mediation services and coordinated NOAA capabilities.

***Strengthening National Estuarine Research Reserves.*** Technical amendments are made that would strengthen the capabilities of estuarine research reserves to address coastal management issues as well as training, education and stewardship concepts. Amendments would also allow NOAA to work with non-profit organizations to carry out projects to support reserve objectives and to accept donations and other services. These amendments will forge a stronger link between the reserves and state CMPs.

***Amend the Use of the Coastal Zone Management Fund.*** Program administration costs are moved to a separate authorization line in § 318 and increased to enhance OCRM service levels. Section 308 funds would be used to offset NOAA's CZMA expenditures. Other § 308 uses are moved to § 310A.